

J.T. Lane, Assistant Secretary
Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
628 N. 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3214

Dear Assistant Secretary Lane:

Thank you for your October 8, 2013 letter to Administrator McCarthy, requesting assistance from EPA. While EPA staff were not available to provide assistance due to the federal shutdown, we were able to contact Captain Patrick Young, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, who was available to assist your agency with public health and technical issues during the period of the government shutdown.

EPA Region 6 Drinking Water Section Chief, Blake Atkins, participated in the September 23rd technical and policy discussion, as well as attended your St. Bernard Parish public meeting. Mr. Atkins and his staff have been working with Mr. Jake Causey of your staff since the onset of the *Naegleria fowleri* contamination and we are committed to continue to support technical and policy issues associated with this incident in St. Bernard and DeSoto Parishes, including participation with your *Naegleria fowleri* Scientific Advisory Working Group.

I thank you for your efforts in addressing risk associated with exposure to the *Naegleria fowleri* ameba. My staff, with support from EPA's Office of Research and Development, will continue to assist you and your staff in minimizing such risk. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,

William K. Honker, P.E.
Director
Water Quality Protection Division